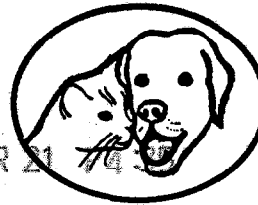


Basic Pet Care Animal Hospital



DR. PETER LUGTEN
Veterinarian

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(631) 694-0330

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March 12, 2001

US Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket # 98P-0151/CP1

To whom it may concern:

The current practice of slaughtering downed animals is inhumane and cruel in the extreme, particularly given the methods currently utilized to move such animals once they are down. If there were no market for the meat of these animals, the "processors" would ensure that safeguards were in place to prevent animals from becoming "downed" in the first place.

If downed animals were not permitted to even enter the slaughterhouse, farmers who raise the animals for slaughter would not even bother putting them on the truck heading for market, thus causing sick and injured animals even more pain and distress.

Please grant the petition referenced above submitted by the Farm Sanctuary. You may write to me at the above address to inform me of the progress of your office in regards to this petition.

Sincerely,

Diane Pionegro,
Licensed Veterinary
Technician

Cc: Mr. Charles Schumer, US Senate
Mrs. Hillary Rodham-Clinton, US Senate

C4353

98P-0151